

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in light of the present amendment and following discussion, is respectfully requested.

After entry of the foregoing amendments, Claims 1-36 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 12-14, 18, 25, 26 and 33-36 are amended without introduction of new matter. Support for the amendments to Claims 13 and 14 is self-evident from the claims as originally filed.<sup>1</sup>

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-7, 12-14, 17-29, and 31-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,819,092 to Sampson et al. (hereinafter "Sampson"); and Claims 8-11, 15, 16, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Sampson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,819,092 to Ferguson et al. (hereinafter "Ferguson").

Addressing now the rejection of Claims 1-7, 12-14, 17-29, and 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Sampson, that rejection is respectfully traversed.

Though they are different in scope, each of independent Claims 1, 18, 25, and 33-36 recites a server system configured to carry out communications with client systems of electronic service users; and recites updating or maintaining of tie-up pages. The remaining claims depend directly or indirectly from the above-noted independent claims.

In view of the cited portions of Sampson, Applicant presumes that Sampson's session managers 420A, 420B are cited as teaching the claimed server systems (because the session managers 420A, 420B are described as updating one another with session information).<sup>2</sup> However, Sampson's session managers 420A, 420B are not taught as being "configured to carry out communications with client systems of electronic service users," as claimed. In that

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<sup>1</sup> As the claims are not amended to address the outstanding rejections, Applicants respectfully submit that a rejection based on new prior art in the next official communication cannot be a final rejection.

<sup>2</sup> See Office Action, 1/26/2005, page 3; citing Sampson, col. 11, line 55 - col. 12, line 32, as teaching the "updating unit" of Claim 1.

regard, Applicant notes that Sampson's Figure 4 shows the session managers 420A, 420B as being separated from the client 100 system by the protected servers 104A, 104B.

Further, the session managers 420A, 420B do not update or maintain "tie-up pages," as claimed. Rather, the session managers 420A, 420B update or maintain session information. The meanings of "page" and "session" are recognized by those skilled in the art. Generally, with respect to servers, a "page" is recognized as being a web page or a home page. On the other hand, a "session" is recognized as being a logical connection state in communication. In that regard, Applicant notes that Sampson states, "[T]hese interactions generally occur during one or more HTTP sessions that are established between the client and the server."<sup>3</sup> In addition, Sampson defines the session information as preferably comprising an initial session identifier value, an initial access time value, a last access time value, a user identifier value or key, a general timeout value, and an idle timeout value.<sup>4</sup> Thus, the session information clearly does not teach the claimed tie-up pages.

Accordingly, in view of the above, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-7, 12-14, 17-29, and 31-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Sampson be withdrawn. Further, as Ferguson does not cure the above-noted deficiencies of Sampson, Applicant requests that the rejection of Claims 8-11, 15, 16, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Sampson in view of Ferguson be withdrawn.

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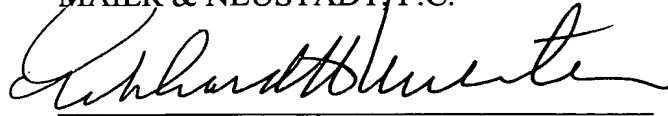
<sup>3</sup> Sampson, col. 2, lines 35-37.

<sup>4</sup> Sampson, col. 10, lines 43-46.

Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that the present application is in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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